

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 3 and 14, without prejudice to or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10-12, and 15-22, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating distribution of a transaction account card through a distributor, the method comprising the steps of:

issuing a transaction account card to the distributor; and

receiving information from the distributor via a MICR protocol, wherein said information reports the distribution of said transaction account card,

wherein said transaction account card is one of a plurality of cards, and

wherein said plurality of cards are consigned in groups to the distributor.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of activating said distributed transaction account card.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said transaction account card is a pre-paid card.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1, further comprising the steps of:

associating a first number with said transaction account card, wherein said first number is configured to conform to said MICR protocol, wherein said first number comprises, at least in part, a plurality of sequential numbers, ~~wherein said card is one of a plurality of cards, and wherein said plurality of cards are consigned in groups with each card identified respectively by said plurality of sequential numbers; and~~

associating a second number with said transaction account card, wherein said second number is a randomized account number.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein a purchase agreement is associated with said transaction account card and bears indicia of said first number.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said indicia of said first number is embodied in a MICR line visible on said purchase agreement form.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said second number is an account number, wherein said distribution comprises a sale of said transaction account card, and wherein the distributor is a third party seller.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of processing said information via a pre-established Travelers Cheque infrastructure.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of paying said third party seller a commission for said sale of said transaction account card based on at least a portion of the information received from said third party seller.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising a serial number and an account number, and wherein said activating step further comprises the step of confirming that activation is appropriate by confirming at least one of the following information received from ~~said~~ a third party distributor: a purchase location, said serial number and said account number.

12. (Currently Amended) A transaction account distribution device for facilitating the distribution of a card by a distributor, said transaction account distribution device comprising:

a card, wherein said card is also associated with a first number that is configured for communication in MICR protocol; and

a purchase agreement form configured to bear a MICR line configured to be machine readable for conveying said first number to a computer system.

13. (Original) The financial transaction device of claim 12, wherein said first number is a serialized Travelers Cheque number.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The financial transaction device of claim [[14]] 12, wherein said card is a pre-paid card.

16. (Currently Amended) A transaction account distribution device for facilitating the distribution of a card by a distributor, said transaction account distribution device comprising:

a card, wherein said card is also associated with a first number that is configured for processing by a Travelers Cheque infrastructure;

a purchase agreement form configured to bear a line configured to be machine readable for conveying said first number to a computer system.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating distribution of a transaction account through a third party distributor comprising:

a transaction account issuing system configured to issue ~~the~~ a plurality of transaction ~~account~~ accounts to a distributor;

a distributor system configured to distribute the ~~transaction account~~ cards associated with the transaction accounts and to communicate with the transaction account

issuing system via a MICR protocol, wherein said communication provides information relating to the distribution of the transaction ~~account~~ accounts via the cards.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~said the~~ transaction ~~account~~ is accounts are associated with a first number and a second number, and wherein said first number comprises, at least in part, a serialized number.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein said first number comprises a Travelers Cheque number, wherein said distributor system is a third party distributor system that is configured to communicate information related to the distribution of the transaction ~~account~~ accounts to said transaction account issuing system; and wherein said information is configured for processing via a Travelers Cheque infrastructure.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~said transaction account is a~~ the cards are pre-paid ~~card~~ cards and wherein ~~said each of the~~ pre-paid ~~card~~ is cards are funded no earlier than the sale of ~~said the~~ pre-paid card by the distributor.

21. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating distribution of a transaction account through a distributor comprising:

a transaction account issuing system configured to consign ~~the~~ a plurality of transaction ~~account~~ accounts to a distributor; and

a distributor system configured to distribute cards associated with the transaction ~~account~~ accounts and to communicate with the transaction account issuing system via a pre-established financial infrastructure.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for facilitating distribution of a transaction account through a distributor, the method comprising the steps of:

consigning a plurality transaction ~~account~~ accounts from an issuer to the a distributor;

associating the transaction accounts with cards; and

~~receiving~~ transmitting information from the distributor to the issuer, and processing said information via a Travelers Cheque infrastructure,

wherein said information reports the distribution of said transaction ~~account~~ accounts by distribution of the cards.